

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 SS-15 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 IO-10

NSAE-00 USIA-06 PM-03 L-02 ACDA-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 CPR-01 NIC-01 DODE-00 NSC-05 /081 W

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R 141025Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5808

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O.: 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, UR

SUBJ: SOVIET V-E DAY CELEBRATIONS

REF: STATE 69945

1. TO MARK V-E DAY IN CAMEROON, SOVIET AMBASSADOR HELD ROUTINE YAOUNDE RECEPTION MARKED BY NO RPT NO SPECIAL FEATURES SUCH AS SPEECHES OR FILMS. INVITATION CARD STATED RECEPTION WAS "TO COMMEMORATE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF DEFEAT OF HITLERITE FASCISM". WE NOTED ONE CAMEROONIAN MINISTER AND A SAMPLING OF OTHER CAMEROONIAN OFFICIALS. TURNOUT WAS SOMEWHAT LIGHTER THAN WOULD BE USUAL FOR A NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION. WE DO NOT RPT NOT KNOW WHETHER GUEST LIST WAS SMALLER OR WHETHER CAMEROONIANS NORMALLY ON SUCH LISTS WHO HAVE THEIR FILL OF RECEPTIONS WERE LESS INTERESTED IN TURNING OUT FOR EVENT WHOSE COMMEMORATIVE PURPOSE NOT VERY MEANINGFUL FOR THEM.

2. DIPLOMATIC TURNOUT WAS ALSO MODERATELY LIGHTER THAN USUAL. WEST GERMANS HAD PLANNED TO ATTEND, BUT STAYED AWAY ON LAST-MINUTE INSTRUCTIONS FROM BONN; INSTRUCTIONS DID NOT RPT NOT CALL FOR TRYING COORDINATE RESPONSE WITH U.S. AND OTHER ALLIES AND GERMAN CHARGE INDICATED NO RPT NO PARTICULAR CONCERN ABOUT WHAT
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REST OF US PLANNED TO DO. FRENCH REPRESENTED BY AMBASSADOR ONLY,

THOUGH MUCH LARGER NUMBER OF EMBASSY STAFF INVITED THAN TO USUAL SOVIET RECEPTIONS HERE. FRENCH AMBASSADOR INTERPRETED HIS INSTRUCTIONS, WHICH CALLED FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH U.S. AND OTHER ALLIES, AS CALLING FOR MINIMAL PARTICIPATION. WE RECEIVED AND RESPONDED TO NORMAL NUMBER OF INVITATIONS -- AMBASSADOR PLUS THREE.

3. LAST WEEK SOVIET EMBASSY DISTRIBUTED SPECIAL ISSUE OF MOSCOW-PRODUCED WEEKLY "COURIER DE L'URSS" DEVOTED TO V-E DAY ANNIVERSARY, IN WHICH SOVIETS TOOK VIRTUALLY FULL CREDIT FOR VICTORY AND STRESSED RELEVANCE OF SOVIET FEAT FOR ARAB, AFRICAN AND ASIAN WORLD. (BUT IN CONVERSATION WITH OFFICIAL AMERICANS HERE, SEVERAL SOVIETS MARKEDLY REFERRED TO "OUR COMMON VICTORY".) WE NOT RPT NOT AWARE OF WHAT SPECIAL EFFORTS THEY MAY HAVE MADE TO MADE TO PLACE V-E DAY MATERIAL IN LOCAL MEDIA, BUT NOTHING APPEARED IN ANY CASE.

4. COMMENT. V-E DAY NOT PARTICULARLY NOTABLE EVENT FOR CAMEROONIANS, WHICH LOCAL SOVIETS HERE REALISTICALLY RECOGNIZE. THEY ESSENTIALLY WENT THROUGH MOTIONS OF COMMEMORATING EVENT WITH RECEPTION AND LET IT PASS AT THAT.

MOORE

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